

### **III. EVALUATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA (CONTINUED)**

The Confidential Volume 3 must be packaged and sealed separately from the non-confidential Volumes 1 and 2. Volume 3 must accompany Volumes 1 and 2, must be clearly marked **“Confidential Information for RFP 500-07-503,”** and must include the **Bidder’s name** and the **project title**.

Confidentiality will be determined by the Commission in accordance with the confidentiality regulations contained in Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 2501 et seq. The Commission will not accept or retain any proposals that are submitted entirely in confidence. However, all proposals will be kept confidential until the Notice of Proposed Awards is posted.

#### **2. Limitation in the Proposal Format and Length for Stage 1**

Proposals must be presented in a clear, complete, and concise manner. The Volume 2, Table of Contents and Attachments 5, and 6a, excluding the Appendices, should be kept to a combined maximum of fifteen (15) pages of text. Bidders are strongly encouraged to limit the length of their proposals, while adequately covering the proposal requirements.

Bidders who believe that supporting documentation or additional explanations exceeding the fifteen (15) page limit are needed may attach such information in appendices to their proposal. Appendices are appropriate for items such as calculations of non-energy public and private benefits and associated discussions, calculations of performance enhancements resulting from successful completion of the proposed work, and summaries of accomplishments from previous RD&D projects that are relevant to the proposed project.

#### **3. Administrative Screening for Stage 1**

If your proposal fails any of these items, it will be rejected immediately (please also see the Grounds for Rejection from Stage 1 section):

- 1) The proposal must be received at the Energy Commission Contracts Office by the time and date indicated in Section I.
- 2) The proposal must not be marked confidential in its entirety. Proposals that are marked confidential in their entirety will be rejected from further evaluation under this RFP.
- 3) The proposal must not have costs, cost bids, rates, or any part of the budget marked as confidential.

#### **4. Completeness Screening for Stage 1**

A proposal must follow the format and contain all of the information described in the Submittal Requirements section above or the proposal will fail the completeness screening and will be rejected prior to the technical evaluations. In particular, proposals will be screened for completeness on the basis of whether or not the proposal contains sufficient information to enable a useful evaluation to be conducted.

#### **5. Public Interest Screening (applies to Stage 1 Research Projects)**

The Project Proposal must provide a clear and convincing explanation of why PIER funding is appropriate and needed for the proposed activities. Specifically, the Bidder must discuss each research project’s current status, and describe what science or technology advancement they will achieve that is inadequately addressed by the competitive or regulated markets, and what technical or market barriers they will resolve.

Proposals, and their included Projects, will be screened to determine if the Program’s research will be in the public interest. Proposals that fail the public interest screening will not be evaluated further under this RFP. To pass, a Proposal must present a convincing statement that one or more of the following is true:

- A. The research seeks to improve the affordability of energy services and products; improve the safety and/or reliability of energy services and products; or reduce the impact or restore the environment through energy services and products.